



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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November 20, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PTB*

RE: Site Inspection; ECDC Environmental, LC; ECDC Clay Mine; M/015/062; Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: November 19, 2002
Time of Inspection: 2:30 to 2:45 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 40's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific purpose for the inspection. I was in the area, had a little extra time, and decided to visit the site.

Getting to the site:

Directions to the site are given in reports for previous inspections.

Observations:

It appeared the site had recently (perhaps within the last month) had heavy rain and that some of the drainage and sediment control structures had been damaged, but these structures have been cleaned and/or repaired. There is a small channel with a culvert under the road as one enters the site, and it appears this channel and the culvert have been recently cleaned. Last year, the operator installed a line of straw bales between the Price River and what appears to be a spoil pile, and while most of these have been trashed by cattle (Photo 1), some of the remaining straw from the bales on the west end had been washed toward the river (Photo 2). Where these bales were washed toward the river, the operator has now built a berm that should keep all drainage from this area within the disturbed area. To the east of the row of straw bales, the operator last year built a berm, and this berm did not fail (Photo 3).

Between the berm on the east and the Price River, the operator last year planted some seed, but there was no vegetation in this area. Where the straw bales were, however, there is quite a lot of grass, but much of this may be volunteer grain from the straw.

Page 2

East Carbon Development Company, ECDC Clay Mine

M/015/062

November 20, 2002

I saw little or no sign of erosion from the spoil pile through the trashed straw bales into the Price River. There may be enough rocks and soil crusting on this pile to reduce the amount of erosion.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The operator should be commended for taking care of the site maintenance prior to any inspection or request from the Division.

After seeing the lack of erosion from the spoil pile into the Price River, I believe it should not be necessary to maintain the row of straw bales between the pile and the river. The Division and the operator should watch this area for signs of erosion and sedimentation problems, but it appears at this time that sediment control structures may not be needed in this area.

jb

cc: Darin Olsen, ECDC

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ATTACHMENT
November 20, 2002
Photographs
M/015/062, ECDC Clay Mine, East Carbon Development Company

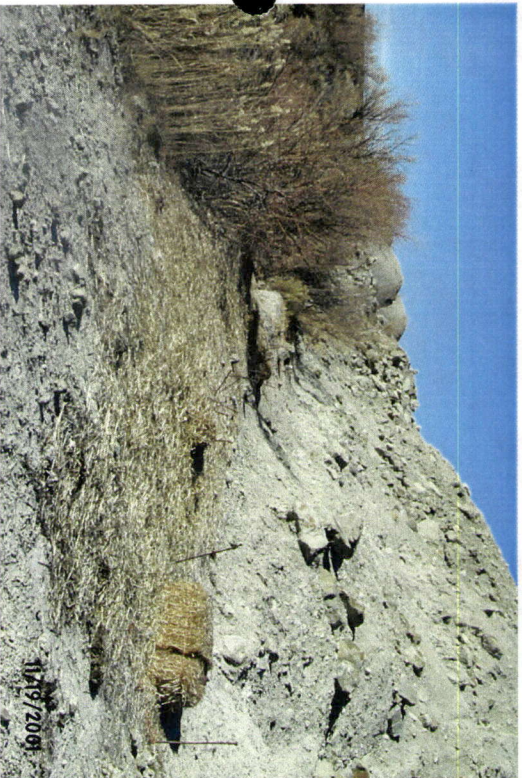


Photo 1. What remains of the row of straw bales between the spoil pile on the right and the Price River on the left.



Photo 3. Berm to the east of the straw bales shown in Photo 1.



Photo 2. The west end of the straw bales where some were washed toward the Price River.